Bio-diversity conservation

1898. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bio-diversity of the country has been assessed using satellite data including the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) whether the results of the study are being used in planning bio-diversity conservation measures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government through the Department of Bio-technology and the Department of Space have jointly carried out Bio-diversity characterization at landscape level using satellite data. The data generated is integrated in the Geographic Information System for landscape analysis. This information base, which is of immense value, is used by Government and State Forest Departments for conservation related activities.

Transgenic crop policy

1899. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to review the transgenic crop policy of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have received some adverse reports on the performance of Bt. Cotton; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government are following a case by case policy for approval of transgenic crops, since the bio-safety assessment

depends on the agro-climatic conditions, local bio-diversity and the type of genetic modification proposed. However, the Government in the Ministry of Agriculture have taken up the exercise of recommending streamlining of the procedure and protocols to be adopted while according approval for commercial cultivation of transgenic crops.

(c) and (d) No such official adverse reports on the performance of Bt. Cotton for Kharif 2003 have been received.

Kyoto Protocol

1900. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kyoto Protocol commits developed countries to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emission to 5 per cent below the 1990 level by 2012;

(b) whether part of these cuts will be achieved through Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), an agreement which allows industrialized countries to invest in green projects in developing countries to earn credit for their gas emission; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Kyoto Protocol commits the developed country parties to reduce their emissions of Green House Gases to an average of approximately 5.2% below 1990 levels over the period 2008-2012.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under the Clean Development Mechanism, developed country parties would take up Green House Gas reduction project activities in a developing country. To enable participation in this process, a country should be a party to the Kyoto Protocol. The Clean Development Mechanism shall be subject to authority and guidance of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and will be supervised by an Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism.